

Neotropic Cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

A bird of the tropical waterways of Central and South America, the Neotropic Cormorant reaches the upper limits of its range in Texas and occasionally, the Great Plains. Although it superficially resembles North America's other freshwater cormorant, the Double-crested Cormorant, the Neotropic Cormorant stands apart in various aspects of behavior, as well as range.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Large, dark waterbird
- Long body and neck
- Medium sized bill is blunt or hooked at tip.
- Purplish black plumage
- Throat and base of bill yellowish

Immature Description

Cool Facts

- The Neotropic Cormorant is the only cormorant known to plunge-dive into water to catch fish. Unlike gannets and boobies, it does not dive from great heights, restricting its dives to less than a half-meter (1.75 feet) over the water. It is not particularly successful with this technique, catching a fish only once in every six to ten plunges.
- The oldest recorded Neotropic Cormorant was at least 11 years, 9 months old when it was found in Louisiana.



Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 124.0 inches
- Wingspan - 40.2 inches
- Weight - 37.7 - 52.9 ounces